

Appl. No. 10/399,081

Docket No. 58009-016101

Amdt. dated December 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of June 17, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 - 14 (previously cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A carrying case comprising:

a body of surrounding material having at least two components for opening and closure together thereby to provide access to a space defined by the surrounding material, each component has an edge for location adjacent a respective edge of the opposite component;

a liner fitting in the space in the surrounding material, the liner having an edge for location between the component edges thereby to permit a sealing engagement to be effected when the components are closed and the component edges contact the liner on opposite sides;

means to secure the two components together in a closed relationship;

a latch for location between the two components, the latch being mounted on the side opposite a hinge between the two components; the latch including an elongated face component, the face component extending in front of the case, ~~and the latch face~~; and

an interlocking element on the latch component, and cooperating lock element on the second component.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A carrying case comprising:

a body of surrounding material having at least two components for opening and closure together thereby to provide access to a space defined by the surrounding material, each component has an edge for location adjacent a respective edge of the opposite component;

a single liner fitting in the space in the surrounding material, the single liner having an edge for location between the component edges thereby to permit a sealing engagement to be effected when the components are closed and the component edges contact the single liner on opposite sides;

means to secure the two components together in a closed relationship;

a latch for location between the two components, the latch being mounted on the side opposite a hinge between the two components; the latch including an elongated face component,

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the face component extending for about half the length of the front of the case, ~~and the latch face~~ shaped such that it has two lips extending outward on either side to allow a finger of a user to lift the latch; and

a pair of interlocking elements on the latch component, the interlocking elements being spaced towards the end of the face component, and a pair of cooperating lock elements on the second component; ~~and~~

wherein the liner material is shaped to conform substantially to the inside of one of the components and the liner having an opening to facilitate purging from the container.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A case as claimed in claim 16 wherein the liner includes a side wall for extending substantially with a side wall of at least one component and a lateral extension from the side wall, the lateral extension being directed towards the edge of at least one component, and wherein, when the components are closed, the lateral extension or a further extension of the lateral extension is located between the respective edges thereby to form a seal for the case.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A protective case comprising:

a body of surrounding material having at least two mating components for opening and closure thereby to provide access to a space defined by the surrounding material, each component having a respective edge for location adjacent an edge of the opposite component;

a hinge located along a first side of the two components to permit opening and closure;

a latch for securing the two components in a closed position, the latch being fastened to a first component on the side opposite the hinge and extending in the front of the case, the latch including a face and a locking member, the locking member being for releasably engaging a second component; and

a liner including a side wall for extending substantially with a side wall of a first of said components and a lateral extension from the side wall, the lateral extension being directed towards the edge of the first component, and wherein when the first and the second components are closed, the lateral extension or a further extension of the lateral extension is located between the respective edges of the first and second components thereby to form a seal for the case, and wherein a liner edge includes two legs which are spaced apart so that there is a space between the

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legs and being such that when a lip on the edge of the second component presses against lateral edge the space between the legs becomes smaller.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A carrying case as claimed in claim 15 wherein both components are made of translucent or at least partially translucent material, and wherein the liner is opaque.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A carrying case as claimed in claim 18 wherein both components are made of translucent or at least partially translucent material, and wherein the liner is opaque.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A carrying case as claimed in claim 15 wherein the liner includes an opening to facilitate purging.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A carrying case as claimed in claim 18 including a comprising:

a body of surrounding material having at least two mating components for opening and closure thereby to provide access to a space defined by the surrounding material, each component having a respective edge for location adjacent an edge of the opposite component;
a hinge located along a first side of the two components to permit opening and closure;
a latch for securing the two components in a closed position, the latch being fastened to a first component on the side opposite the hinge and extending in the front of the case, the latch including a face and a locking member, the locking member being for releasably engaging a second component; and

a liner including a side wall for extending substantially with a side wall of a first of said components and a lateral extension from the side wall, the lateral extension being directed towards the edge of the first component, and wherein when the first and the second components are closed, the lateral extension or a further extension of the lateral extension is located between the respective edges of the first and second components thereby to form a seal for the case, and wherein a liner edge includes two legs which are spaced apart so that there is a space between the legs and being such that when a lip on the edge of the second component presses against lateral

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edge the space between the legs becomes smaller, the liner having an opening to facilitate purging.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A carrying case as claimed in claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein both components are made of translucent or at least partially translucent material, and wherein the liner is opaque.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A carrying case as claimed in claim ~~18~~ 22, wherein both components are made of translucent or at least partially translucent material, and wherein the liner is opaque.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A case as claimed in claim 18 wherein the liner is a single liner fitting in the space in the surrounding material.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A case as claimed in claim 18 wherein the latch includes an elongated face component, the face component extending in front of the case and an interlocking element on the latch component, and a cooperating lock element on the second component.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A case as claimed in claim 24 the face component extending for about half the length of the front of the case, and the latch face shaped such that it has two lips extending outward on either side to allow a finger of a user to lift the latch; and a pair of interlocking elements on the latch component, the interlocking elements being spaced towards the end of the face component, and a pair of cooperating lock elements on the second component.

Claim 28 (new): A carrying case as claimed in claim 22, wherein the liner includes an opening to facilitate purging.

Claim 29 (new): A case as claimed in claim 22, wherein the liner is a single liner fitting in the space in the surrounding material.

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Claim 30 (new): A case as claimed in claim 22, wherein the latch includes an elongated face component, the face component extending in front of the case and an interlocking element on the latch component, and a cooperating lock element on the second component.

Claim 31 (new): A case as claimed in claim 22, the face component extending for about half the length of the front of the case, and the latch face shaped such that it has two lips extending outward on either side to allow a finger of a user to lift the latch; and a pair of interlocking elements on the latch component, the interlocking elements being spaced towards the end of the face component, and a pair of cooperating lock elements on the second component.

Claim 32 (new): A case comprising:

a first component and a second component, each comprising a main body and an edge, the edge of the first component being for engagement with the edge of the second component, the edge of the first component having an engagement surface defining an engagement space; and

a liner located on the edge of the first component,

wherein

the first and second component are connected so that the case can assume an open condition and a closed condition,

in the open condition the liner located on the edge of the first component defines a liner space in the engagement space of the first component,

in the closed condition the edge of the second component engages the edge of the first component, and the liner space defined by the liner located on the edge of the first component in the engagement space of the first component is reduced.

Claim 33 (new): The case of claim 32, wherein the liner has opposite sides and in the closed condition the edge of the second component engages the edge of the first component by contacting the liner located on the edge of the first component.

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Claim 34 (new): The case of claim 32, wherein the main body of each component has an internal surface, the internal surface of each component defining an internal space of the case, the liner located along the internal surface of the first component.

Claim 35 (new): A case comprising:

a first component and a second component, each comprising a main body and an edge, the edge of the first component being for engagement with the edge of the second component, the edge of the first component having an engagement surface; and

a liner located on the edge of the first component, the liner comprising legs facing the engagement surface;

wherein

the components are connected so that the case can assume an open condition and a closed condition,

in the open condition a liner space is formed between the legs of the liner located on the edge of the first component,

in the closed condition the edge of the second component engages the edge of the first component, the legs of the liner located on the edge of the first component are extended so that the space between the legs is reduced.

Claim 36 (new): The case of claim 35, wherein the main body of each component has an internal surface, the internal surface of each component defining an internal space of the case, the liner located along the internal surface of the first component.

Claim 37 (new): The case of claim 36, further comprising a valve allowing pressure equilibration between the internal space of the case and a space outside the case when the case is in a closed condition.

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Claim 38 (new): A case comprising:

a first component and a second component, each comprising a main body and an edge, the edge of the first component being for engagement with the edge of the second component, the edge of the first component having an engagement surface defining an engagement space;

a liner located in the engagement space;

means to connect the first component and the second component so that the case can assume an open condition and a closed condition;

a latch located on one component, the latch including an elongated face component and an interlocking element, the face component having an edge extending in front of the case; and

a lock element located on the second component and cooperating with the interlocking element,

wherein

in the open condition the liner located on the edge of the first component defines a liner space in the engagement space of the first component, and

in the closed condition

the edge of the first component engages the edge of the second component, the liner space defined by the liner located on the edge of the first component in the engagement space of the first component being reduced,

the interlocking element located on the latch engages the lock element located on the second component, and

the liner located in the engagement space of the first component permits a sealing engagement of the first components with the second component

Claim 39 (new): The carrying case of claim 38, wherein in the closed condition the edge of the first component and the edge of the second component contact the liner on opposite sides of the liner.